

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE:

August 1, 1938

SUBJECT:

Visit of Yaroslav Stetsko, President of the
Central Committee of the Antibolshevik Bloc
of Nations

PARTICIPANTS:

Mr. Yaroslav Stetsko, President of the Central Committee of the
Antibolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN).
Mr. W. Daschayk, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America
Mr. E. Bilynski, Editor of the "Ukrainian Catholic Daily"
Mr. Theodore L. Fiset Jr., FE

COPIES TO:

EE - Mr. Leverich
FF - Mr. Stefan
G - Mr. Curtis (J)
Attentional MEMOR

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Mr. Stetsko, who in addition to his position in the ABN is a leader
of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, Bandera Faction - OUN (B),
was received at the request of Mr. Daschayk. Mr. Stetsko recently received
a US visa after being refused one for eight years. He was the Premier of
a short-lived Ukrainian regime in Lvov in June, 1941.

Mr. Stetsko stated that he wished to inform the Department concerning
the preparatory conference of the "Anti-Communist World Congress" which was
recently held in Mexico City. He stated that it is the intention of the
preparatory group to hold the Congress on the second anniversary of the
Hungarian revolution in October, 1938. Unfortunately, however, three
American delegates at the preparatory conference left the meeting because
they could not agree to support Ukrainian independence. Mr. Stetsko de-
clared this refusal and requested the support of the Department for the
Congress.

A second purpose of his visit, Mr. Stetsko stated, was to ask the
Department to support the concept of Ukrainian independence. He spoke
at some length on this subject and was vehement in his attacks on WOA and
on Radio Liberation for their refusal to support the ABN. He said that he
understood that Radio Liberation, like WOA, is under the control of the US
Government and that therefore the Department might be able to change the
policies of both radios. A change would, he said, conform to the US
tradition of supporting independence movements and would have a good effect
on world public opinion.

Mr. Stetsko

ENCLOSURE

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 302D
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH

State

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Mr. Stetake referred to his difficulties in obtaining a U. S. visa despite his stay in a "hard concentration camp." He claimed he was turned down because of the opposition to his visit on the part of Russians in the U. S. His claim in the GCP (b), Mr. Stetake, also cannot get a U. S. visa, according to Mr. Stetake, is due to the fact that many collaborators with the Soviets have been permitted to enter the United States. He denied that he and his associates had collaborated with the Nazis except to fight the Communists. "Forced to choose between the Russian Communists and Hitler," he said he had had to choose Hitler.

Mr. Stetake described some of the activities of the AHS in connection with which he has travelled widely throughout the world. In addition to its radio station now operating in Taipei, the AHS hopes to establish stations in Korea, Pakistan and West Berlin. Mr. Stetake claimed, however, that U. S. officials are constantly blocking the activities of the AHS and supporting instead such "Russian Imperialist" or variations as the WFO. He said that, as evidenced at the conference in Mexico City, the U. S. does not even adopt a neutral policy towards the AHS.

Mr. Stetake said that he had also mentioned to a number of Congressmen his conviction that the United States must do for the independence of all the nations within the Soviet Union. These Congressmen had, however, referred him to the State Department. He wished now to say that the Department's policy is in error and can have unfortunate results.

Mr. Elliot stated that American policy towards the nationality problem in the Soviet Union is one of non-protectionism. He believes that the peoples concerned should choose their own system of government after they are no longer under the Communist yoke. He stated, he said, to be certain that Mr. Stetake understands that the United States has deep sympathy for the plight of all peoples living under Communism, including the Russians, the Ukrainians, and all others. He said he appreciated hearing Mr. Stetake's views and would pass them on to the appropriate officers of the Department.

Mr. Stetake said that he would like to present specific proposals to the U. S. Government on the subjects of the Anti-Communist World Congress, and possible assistance to the Stalinskiy Bloc of Nations. He asked if there would be any objection to his sending the Department a memorandum on these subjects. Mr. Elliot said he had no objection.

WFOFF - Telling

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